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Maybe Douglas Wrote Himself Out Of Job

ASSOCIATE Justice William O. Douglas of the U. S. Supreme Court is in trouble. Serious trouble. Republican congressmen are contemplating impeachment proceedings against the aging jurist.

Douglas has come under critical fire for a variety of reasons: his former association with the Albert Parvin Foundation; his political activities on behalf of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions; his open arrogance in ruling in favor of convicted pornographer Ralph Ginzburg after having accepted money from his publication.

However, Human Events says a fresh storm of indignation against Douglas has been triggered—in and out of Congress—by a book, *Points of Rebellion*, authored by the judge. This strange little volume, Human Events goes on to say, virtually invites revolutionary violence, and damns as "oppressive" the CIA, the FBI, the Pentagon, the "Establishment" that runs the government and virtually every other American institution.

The article continued:

SIMULTANEOUSLY It feeds the reader a steady diet of inflammatory rhetoric, such as: "Where there is a persistent sense of futility, there is violence; and that is where we are today . . . The use of violence is deep in our history . . . The modern-day dissenters and protesters are functioning as the loyal opposition in England . . . The use of violence as an instrument of persuasion is therefore inviting and seems to the discontented to be the only effective protest . . . Violence has no constitutional sanction; and every government from the beginning has moved against it. But where grievances pile high and most of the elected spokesmen

represent the Establishment, violence may be the only effective response. . .

"George III was the symbol against which our Founders made a revolution now considered bright and glorious. . . We must realize that today's Establishment is the new George III. Whether it will continue to adhere to its tactics we do not know. If it does, the redress, honored in tradition, is also revolution."

THIS SLIM, 97-page volume has fascinated impeachment-minded lawmakers. Aside from encouraging demonstrators to break the law, this book, it is claimed, has revealed Douglas to be so violently biased against American institutions that it is clearly impossible for him to render an impartial verdict on a wide variety of subjects—including such cases as the "Chicago 7."

Rep. Durward Hall (R-Mo.), one of those who is considering joining the impeachment move, said he was "appalled" at the judge's statements, and then wisecracked that he had been left with the fear that "Justice Douglas, while taking one of his well-known

hikes in the woods, might have been attacked by a flock of 'coo-coo' birds and pecked into mental incompetence."

REP. WILLIAM Scherle (R-Iowa) tagged Douglas a "peacenik" and an "aging Lothario." "If Justice Douglas, whom the taxpayers are subsidizing at \$60,000 a year for life," said Scherle, "really believes his own incoherent drivel, he should resign from the Supreme Court and spend his time scampering up and down the witless paths followed by other anarchists."

While some of the remarks about Douglas have been wrapped in humorous trapping,

House lawmakers look upon a possible anti-Douglas campaign can be seen in the fact that Rep. Ford was busily poring over Douglas' book last week to see if there were sufficient grounds for impeachment. Both Ford's staff and the staff of other lawmakers are researching the impeachment process, with several drafts of a "bill of indictment" against the judge having already been drawn up.

House lawmakers are also duly impressed that Rep. Louis Wyman (R-N.H.) has displayed particular interest in a possible impeachment attempt. Wyman has wide respect among his colleagues for his distinguished career in the law. Aside from having been one of New Hampshire's most able attorneys general, Wyman was previously president of the National Association of Attorneys General and was chairman of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Jurisprudence and Law Reform.

BRANDISHING the Douglas volume before his colleagues recently, Wyman stressed that he was "deeply concerned by the publication of a written statement of views by a sitting justice of the Supreme Court openly encouraging violence in the United States if dissenters in certain cases do not get their way. . .

(If it can be said that a stock transaction of Judge Haynsworth was a disqualification for the High Court, or as urged by some that statements in a political campaign 20 years ago by Judge Carswell is an objection, how vastly worse it have this kind of provocation willfully distributed from the apparent safety of incumbency by one already on the court. . .

"Its publication in my opinion constitutes conduct incompatible with judicial good behavior. It is surely high misdemeanor sufficient to warrant removal from the High Court. We have enough troubles in America without the fires being willfully fanned

of a sitting member of the court. Justice Douglas should resign from the Supreme Court forthwith. If he does not resign, he should be removed." Thus, the campaign to impeach Justice Douglas from the court proceeds apace.

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Rebellion